

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

ST. CLAIR COUNTY - Swift Agricultural Chemical Corp.
(Fairmont City) Chemical Discharge



117 West Main Street
Collinsville, Ill. 62234
Phone: 618/345-6220

RECEIVED
SURVEILLANCE SECTION

Swift Agricultural Chemical Corp.
2501 Kingshighway
East St. Louis, Illinois 62202

SEP 28 1973

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Gentlemen:

On August 21, 1973 technical representatives of this Agency investigated a report concerning the discharge of a chemical substance from your property. Mr. Robert Britt, plant manager, was contacted during the investigation.

The investigation revealed that a discharge was not occurring at the time of the visit. It was apparent, however, that a large volume of a milky white substance apparently had recently been discharged to a drainage ditch adjacent to your property. Laboratory analysis of a sample from the drainage ditch revealed the liquid to be highly acidic and containing excessive concentrations of numerous contaminants.

We trust that you are aware that discharges of this type may constitute a violation of the Environmental Protection Act and related Water Pollution Regulations.

Very truly yours,

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

James B. Coyne

**James B. Coyne, Supervisor
Mississippi Direct Sub-Unit
Surveillance Section, DWPC**

EWM/cas

cc: DWPC-Records Unit
cc: Mississippi Basin

In the New Illinois, we accommodate!

2200 CHURCHILL ROAD
AT 2400 WEST JEFFERSON
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
AREA CODE 217-525-3397

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ BLANK ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
DIRECTOR, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

XXXXXXXXXXXXX
DIRECTOR
RECEIVED
REGION
272

OCT 3 1973

OCT 3
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
STATE OF ILLINOIS

M E M O R A N D U M

Reference 12

ST. CLAIR COUNTY - Swift Agricultural Chemical Corp.
Chemical Discharge
(Industrial Waste)

TO: Division of Water Pollution Control, Surveillance Section

FROM: Eric W. Merz, Mississippi Direct Sub-Unit

DATE: August 21, 1973

INTERVIEWED: Lt. Donald Payne - U.S. Coast Guard
Mr. Robert Britt, Plant Manager, Swift Fertilizer

In the afternoon of the above date Lt. Donald Payne of the U.S.C.G. telephoned this office to advise the Agency that the Swift Agricultural Chemical Company in Fairmont City had discharged an unknown volume of white material from a chemical tank they were in the process of repairing. Lt. Payne said the Coast Guard became aware of the problem the morning of the above date and immediately requested the company to abate the discharge. The company complied.

At approximately 3:00 PM on the above date, C. V. Beck and the writer arrived at the Swift Company. A discharge was not observed. It was observed, however, that a white milky material filled a drainage ditch leading from Swift property. The drainage ditch drains directly to Rose Creek. The milky substance could be observed in Rose Creek for a distance of approximately 1/2 to 3/4 miles.

After making the above observations, Mr. Robert Britt, Swift Agricultural Chemical Company plant manager, was contacted. Mr. Britt indicated that company personnel were cleaning out a spent Sulphuric Acid tank (Sulphuric Acid is used in the manufacturing process of some fertilizers) with water and in turn discharging the water to the above described drainage ditch. Mr. Britt said a 4 inch sludge deposit in the bottom of the tank had to be flushed out in order to repair a leak. Mr. Britt did not know the amount of water that was discharged, but did say he was of the opinion that a sufficient amount of water was used to adequately dilute the sulphuric acid sludge layer in the tank. Mr. Britt also said that the company would not discharge any additional material in the tank.

A sample of the remaining water mixture in the tank and a sample of the water in the drainage ditch at the apparent point of discharge were collected. The results are as follows: (copies of analysis sheets are attached)

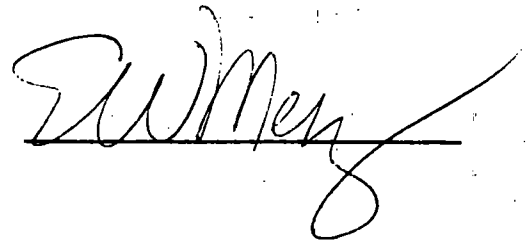
	"TANK"	"DITCH"
Iron (total) mg/l	790.	350.
Manganese mg/l	1.2	1.6
Mercury ppb	55.	105.
Ammonia (N) mg/l	50.0	125.
Phosphorus (P) mg/l	20.0	50.0
B.O.D. mg/l	Interference	Interference
C.O.D. mg/l	31,000	26,000
Susp. Solids mg/l	1,600	135
pH	0.9	1.2
Turbidity (JTU)	10,000	5,000
Total Acidity mg/l	38,000	21,000

ST. CLAIR COUNTY - Swift Agricultural Chemical Corp.
Chemical Discharge
(Industrial Waste)

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An appropriate letter to the company is attached.

The above is for your information.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. W. Menz", is written over a horizontal line.

EWM/cas
10/15/73

cc: Mississippi Basin

P.S. C. V. Beck took photographs of the Rose Creek drainage the following day.
He is preparing a separate memo.

10/17/73

SPECIAL ANALYSIS FORM

B

Time Collected 4:45 PMSub-Basin Mill DistrictDate Collected Aug 22, 1973Collector C. V. BeckFacility Name: Central Chemical Co Facility Number:

File Town

Stream Name (s) 1 h

Fairmont City (E St. Louis P.O.)

Stream Code:

JN

Source of Sample: (Exact Location)

large - (Direct) from bottom of spent sulfuric acid storage tank used as
ledge, discharged to ditch

Physical Observations Remarks:

F

grey then milky white

Flow	Field Dissolved Oxygen	Field pH	Field Temp.
<u>Direct</u>			
Arsenic	Coliform/100ml	<u>INTERFERENCE</u>	<u>BOD</u>
Barium	Fecal Coliform	<u>31,000</u>	<u>COD</u>
Boron	100 ml		
Cadmium	Fecal Strep		TS/EC
Copper	100 ml	<u>1600</u>	<u>Susp. Solids</u>
Chromium (tri)	Algae (Total)		Vol. Susp. Solids
Chromium (hex)	Ammonia (N)	<u>0.9</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>790.</u> <u>Iron (Total)</u>	Organic Nitrogen (N)	<u>10000</u>	<u>Turbidity (JTU)</u>
Iron (Dissolved)	Nitrate + Nitrite (N)		Hardness
Lead	Phosphorus (P)		Alkalinity
<u>1.2</u> <u>Manganese</u>	Chloride	<u>38,000</u>	<u>Total Acidity</u>
<u>55.</u> <u>Mercury</u>	Fluoride	<u>No Test</u>	<u>Free Acidity</u>
Nickel	Sulfate		Oil
Selenium	Cyanide		Other (Specify)
Silver	MBAS		
Zinc	Phenol (ppb)		

Transported by: _____

Received by: _____

Transported by: _____

Received by: _____

FOR LAB USE ONLY

Lab Number: A102352 Rec'd by: Reed 44

Date sample received: AUG 23 1973 Time: 3 P

Date analysis completed: 8/30

Date results forwarded: AUG 31 1973

Total tests requested: 13 Tests performed: 13

Lab Section: 1011A Supervisor: [Signature]

SPECIAL ANALYSIS FORM

C

Collected 4:45 PMSub-Basin Miss RiverCollected Aug 22, 1973Collector Eric MossFacility Name: Agriculture Chemical Co. Facility Number:File Town Fairmont City (E. St. Louis P.D.)Dam Name(s) Rose Creek DitchStream Code JN

Description of Sample: (Exact Location)

Finger Tish ditch at Rose Creek just off Swift property on south edge of old American Zinc Co. site, all Fairmont plant site from wastewater from impound pool area because of oil skimmers west on Pontiac R.R. Rose Lake Yard.

Additional Observations, Remarks:

1 or 79°F. Waters Grey Milky White.

Very Slight	Field Dissolved Oxygen	Field pH	Field Temp
Arsenic	Coliforms (Total)	<u>INTERFERING</u>	<u>NO</u>
Barium	Fecal Coliform	<u>26,000</u>	<u>NO</u>
Boron	Fecal Strep		<u>15/10</u>
Cadmium	Algae (Total) 3ml	<u>135</u>	<u>Algae, no count</u>
Copper	<u>105.0</u>	<u>Ammonia (N)</u>	<u>Vol. Susp. Solids</u>
Chromium (tri)	Organic Nitrogen (N)	<u>4.2</u>	<u>Oil and Grease</u>
Chromium (hex)	Nitrate + Nitrite (N)	<u>5000</u>	<u>Turbidity (NTU)</u>
<u>350</u> Iron (Total)	<u>50.0</u>	<u>Phosphorus (P)</u>	<u>Hardness</u>
Iron (Dissolved)	Chloride		<u>Alkalinity</u>
Lead	Fluoride	<u>21,000</u>	<u>Total Acidity</u>
<u>46</u> Manganese	Sulfate	<u>No Test</u>	<u>Free Acidity</u>
<u>105</u> Mercury (ppb)	<u>N.</u>		<u>Oil</u>
Nickel	MBAS		<u>Other (Specify)</u>
Selenium	Phenol (ppb)		
Silver			
Zinc			

Results in mg/l unless
otherwise noted.

Transported by: _____

Received by: _____

Transported by: _____

Received by: _____

FOR LAB USE ONLY

Lab Number: AUG 23 1973 Rec'd by: Reinhart

Date sample: AUG 23 1973 Time: 3 P

Date analysis completed: 8/30

Date results forwarded: AUG 31 1973

Total Tests requested: 12 Tests run: 10

Lab Section: Sanitary Supervisor: Reinhart